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Dr Harold E. Varmus
35 Cross Street
London N.1
ENGLAND

Dear Harold:

Thank you for your recent letter. I was intrigued to hear that you are working on the dex effect of polyoma transformation (as a cell biologist yet!). I will be interested to hear your conclusions.

With regards MTV cloning, I am glad that you agree that sharing the plasmids with inserted MTV would be reasonable policy; while there will undoubtedly be some overlap in interest areas, I imagine that even these will diverge at a relatively early point. Obviously, our intent is to examine hormone regulatory loci, and this will be done in clones of infected HTC cells in our lab. Optimally, there is every reason to suspect that what is learned in your laboratory about endogenous viral DNA integration in tumor DNA etc. will be of interest and use to us, and conversely that our studies will have some direct inputs for yours.

Since you have already made plans to carry out the cloning of integrated DNA as an overseas collaboration, we will not try to set up that experiment in our lab (we would have used the RI site and done the experiment exactly as you projected). Farhang Payvar in the laboratory has a great deal of interest getting the DNA (he hopes to carry out receptor binding experiments with it). Unfortunately, he is out of the lab for a couple of weeks but when he returns I will talk with him about this, and perhaps start him on something else until the plasmids are available.

Let me know what you think and also how your work and other aspects of your sabbatical are going. Did you take your bike to England, and have you had a chance to risk your neck in London (or get out to the countryside)? I have been lusting after a new Fugi for sometime; and it really is just lust, my old bike runs perfectly well. Last week I even went so far as to spend some time in a couple of bike stores. Then all I will have to do is take enough time to actually do some riding! Maybe that is what sabbaticals are good for...

Best regards,


Keith R. Yamamoto